

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE	New Mexico	Theme XV-Westward Expansion (Military and Indian Affairs)
3. NAME(S) OF SITE	Fort Bayard	4. APPROX. AREA 100
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet)		
Grant County, 1 mile northeast of U.S. Highway 260, east of Silver City		
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner)		
U.S. Government, Veterans Administration		
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)		

Fort Bayard was a key outpost in the Apache Wars of the 1860's, 1870's, and 1880's, figuring prominently in the campaigns against Victorio and the Warm Springs Apaches. The garrison also participated in operations against the Chiricahua Apaches under such leaders as Geronimo, Loco, and Chato. Lt. John J. Pershing served at Fort Bayard following his graduation from West Point. The fort was established by Brig. Gen. James H. Carleton in the fall of 1866 in order to protect miners in nearby Silver City and vicinity from Apache raiders. Tents served as quarters until the first permanent buildings were erected in the late 1870's. The garrison was withdrawn in 1900 and the post turned over to the Medical Department for use as a hospital for soldiers afflicted with tuberculosis, and still serves the same function under the supervision of the Veterans Administration.

Expansion and modernization of the Veterans Hospital has obliterated most of old Fort Bayard. The houses along Officers Row, now designated Doctors Row, were built on the foundations of the old Officers quarters. But the only visible vestige of the old post is the military cemetery, on a hill overlooking the hospital grounds. It contains burials that date back to the early days of Fort Bayard.

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) War Dept., "A Report of the Hygiene of the United States Army with Descriptions of Military Posts," Circular No. 8 (Washington, 1875), 246-49. Don Lusk, "Fighting Post," New Mexico, Vol. XIV (1936). Helen S. Maurer, "Historic Fort Bayard," New Mexico Highway Journal, Vol. IX (1931). Allton F. Turner, "Happy Battleground," New Mexico, Vol. XII (1934).

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

None

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION N/A	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) VA Hospital	13. DATE OF VISIT Feb. 4, 1958
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Robert M. Utley</i>		15. TITLE Historian	16. DATE June 9, 1958

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)